

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD INTRODUCTIONS IN ASSIGNMENTS

The introduction to an assignment is important for two main reasons:

- To gain the reader's attention
- To set yourself a clear purpose, direction, and structure to the assignment

Two Reliable Ways of Getting Started

1. THE 'TELL-THEM-WHAT-YOU-ARE-GOING-TO-TELL-THEM' APPROACH

This essay will consider the Paradox of Intelligence, one of the nine paradoxes that Charles Handy outlined in 'The Empty Raincoat' (1994). A central point that Handy makes in this book is the importance of encouraging a majority of adults to consider continuous learning throughout their lives. This may be an important and worthy aim, but is it feasible? To assess how realistic this argument is the essay is structured into three main parts. First, the distribution of academic qualifications and social class characteristics of adults in Britain today will be examined. The impact these social factors will be explored further in the second section, and in particular the issue as to why a majority of British adults appear reluctant to return to formal education or training will be reviewed. Finally, the issue of what might be done to encourage more adults to consider education and training as a relevant option in their lives will be discussed. A central point in this essay will be that UK government policy on financial support for adult learners needs to change in order to encourage more back to formal learning.

2. ...OR THE 'QUOTE A QUOTE' APPROACH

Charles Handy, in 'The Empty Raincoat' (1994), argues that we need to "transform the whole of society into a permanent learning culture" (p.25). This essay will discuss how realistic a prospect this is in Britain today. It will be argued that, although attitudes to education are changing, there are still too many social, cultural and economic barriers for many adults to overcome before they would consider education or training as a serious option in their lives. The essay will examine how the social transformation, that Handy asserts is necessary, might be achieved.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Read Effective Learning Service booklet 'Essay Writing 2: Planning and Structuring Your Essays' for more detailed explanation.